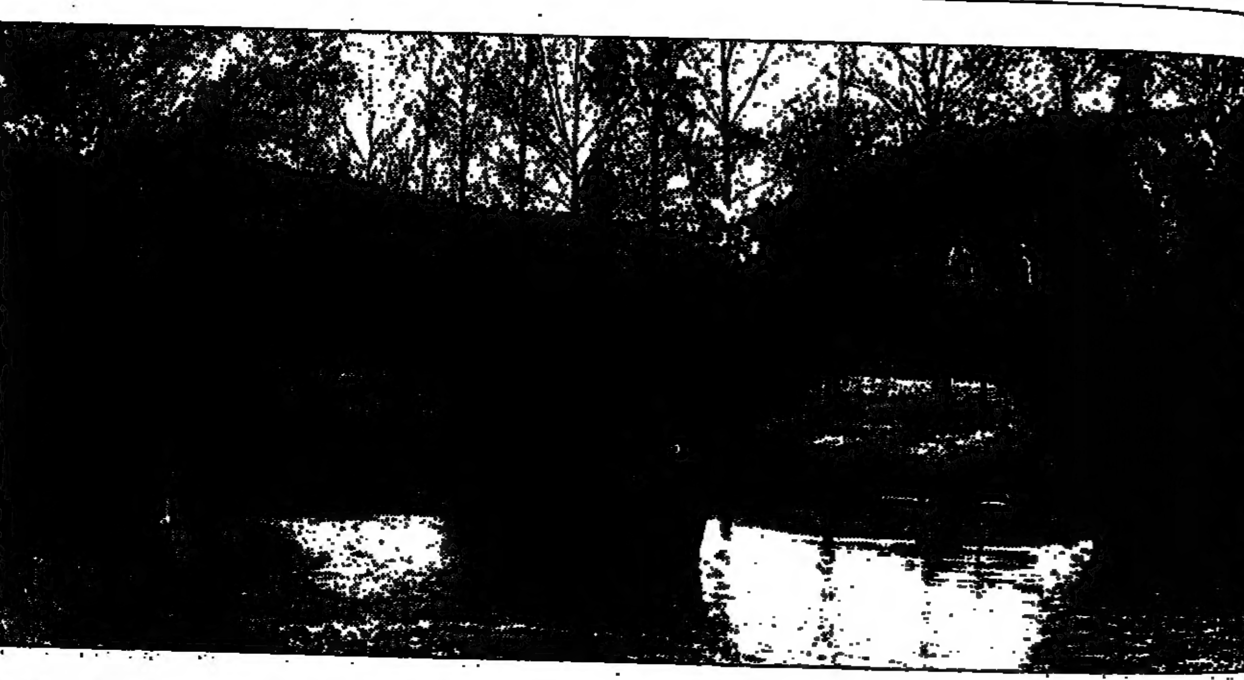
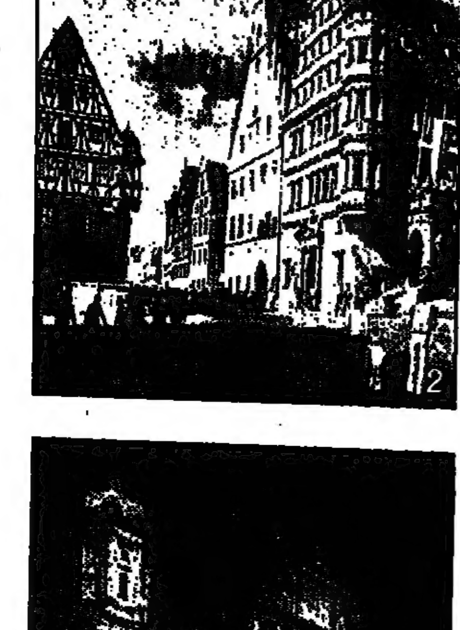












The German Tribune

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…rg, 18 December 1983
…-second year - No. 1112 - By air

Nato takes the initiative in bid to get arms talks going again

…Foreign Ministers ended the pact's …conference in Brussels with an ap… the Soviet Union to return to Ge… and resume the missile talks. In a … called the Brussels Declaration, …offered the East Bloc "comprehen… …litical dialogue and long-term co… …"

…o hopes that talk about disarma… …ent will begin again, despite So… behaviour. Delegates to the Nato …ence in Brussels tried to make this …

…organisation is not biding its time …t and see what the Kremlin's …s. It is intent on taking the initia…

…step in this direction is the deci… …that all Nato foreign ministers will …the opening of the Stockholm con… …ce early next year.

…is conference is to deal with con… …ce-building measures and disar… …ent.

…en the American Secretary of State, Shultz, who at one time was not …sed by the idea, has agreed with …ecision.

…conference in Brussels could easi… …e devoted its attention to a single … over and above the pact's internal …ems.

…en were the Soviets to resume ne… …tions on limitation or reduction of …um-range and intercontinental nu… …missiles?

…hat could be done to persuade …ow to send its delegations back to …wo Geneva conference tables as …s possible?

…rtunately it did not. Nato Foreign …sters, largely prompted by Bonn's …-Dietrich Genscher, tried instead to … a point both to domestic opinion …o the East.

…e Atlantic alliance, they tried to … clear, still hopes that talks will …

…the North Atlantic pact is not …g to see if and when the Kremlin … ready to negotiate again.

… is what individual Nato coun… …specially the United States, would …ly have preferred.

Instead, Nato is approaching the East in an attempt to influence the process of reconsideration and reappraisal Moscow said was needed and it intended embarking on when it called off the Start talks.

One step in this direction is the Stockholm decision.

The ministers are to go to Stockholm regardless whether their East Bloc opposite numbers turn up. But it is hoped that Mr Gromyko will not miss the opportunity.

A further step is the Brussels Declaration, although compared with the ideas recently outlined by Herr Genscher in a bylined article the declaration is extremely modest.

By and large it reiterates well-known Nato arguments. The difference is that the language used is more urgent in tone, so much so as to amount to a virtual appeal.

Over and above nuclear weapons Nato's offer to the Warsaw Pact, covering the whole gamut of security policy, is "to cooperate with us to bring about a long-term, lasting, constructive and realistic relationship based on balance, moderation and reciprocity."

Herr Genscher suggested outlining far-reaching prospects extending to all other sectors of political rapprochement between East and West.

He proposed in particular to draw Moscow's attention to the benefits of comprehensive economic cooperation with the West. This part of his proposals is mentioned in a solitary sentence in the declaration, and then only in extremely general terms. The term "economic affairs" does not occur at all in the declaration, so gaps in this respect could only be bridged in direct talks with the East. A third step was suggested by Belgium. A commission is to give long-term consideration to how policy toward the East is to be developed. Bonn and other Nato governments with similar ideas would probably gain an opportunity of submitting their views on the subject. However, in any assessment of this doubtless protracted development it must not be overlooked that the Americans in particular have had to rethink considerably before going as far as they have done. Herr Genscher is banking on further headway being made in this learning process. The appeal for moderation, for instance, is clearly not aimed only at Moscow; not, at any rate, as Bonn and other European governments see it. It is also aimed at words as well as deeds. In this respect a number of men around and behind President Reagan have seriously overdrawn America's account (and the West's). Let us assume that the West wants seriously to try, with some likelihood of success, to make it clear to the Kremlin that Soviet policy in a number of sectors, especially armaments, runs counter to long-term Soviet interests.

If the West is to succeed in this attempt it must at least do its best to lay a fresh groundwork for objective talks. Vilification or threats will rule out the possibility.

So what is at stake is to call on both superpowers, in different sectors, in different ways and in different degrees of intensity, to exercise moderation.

At the same time they must also be persuaded in their mutual relations to reassign priority of politics over a predominantly military view of matters.

These are tasks that the Europeans might first and foremost be expected to perform, and a start was made in Brussels (not for the first time, incidentally).

The Brussels Declaration is the most readily apparent outcome of this endeavour, which is hampered by the Europeans' inability to arrive at a modicum of a common political viewpoint.

This common view might arguably oblige both Washington and Moscow to pay greater attention to European wishes, especially the desire for relaxation of tension.

But swift success, let alone a rethink or change of mind, need not be expected.

As both quantity and quality of armament increase with the arms race, so the risk of a nuclear "mishap" due to the element of human or technical error increases.

Strengthening conventional defence

Continued on page 6



On the way to Brussels

Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (left) is amused by American Secretary of State George Shultz during a press conference in Bonn before the two went on to Brussels for the Nato meeting. (Photo: dpa)

Dearest work of art ever

This 12th century German manuscript has fetched £8.4m (about DM32.5m) at Sotheby's in London. The 226-page copy of the gospels, written for Henry the Lion of Saxony and Bavaria, has been bought with both public and private cash so it can be returned to Germany. The manuscript which now becomes the most expensive in history, disappeared after the war before turning up at Sotheby's. (Photo: dpa)

IN THIS ISSUE

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

EEC summit posed too many problems

The 27th Common Market summit meeting ended in Athens in fiasco. Intensive efforts by European Council chairman Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, failed to find a compromise on differences, especially between Britain and France. Greece, the host country, suggested a special conference to clarify outstanding issues, but the Ten failed to take up the proposal because no specific ideas were put forward for discussion.

The failure of the Athens EEC summit was a foregone conclusion. At the previous Stuttgart session of the European Council chaired by Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl in June the Common Market leaders clearly bit off more than they could chew.

They set themselves too demanding a task, left themselves with too little time and took the wrong run-up. Anyone who felt the outcome was a disappointment must have been labouring under a delusion.

None of the 10 European Community heads of government and their Foreign Ministers arrived in Athens with any great expectations.

Since July the Foreign Ministers had conferred in vain on seven occasions with the Community's Finance and Agriculture Ministers.

They failed to make headway toward a solution to the EEC's financial difficulties and the causes that lay behind them.

So instead of being able to deal with the broad outlines the heads of government had to get down to the nitty gritty themselves.

They dealt with guarantee thresholds for surplus agricultural produce, per capita shares of EEC revenue and expenditure, and statistical factors such as coefficients and modulators.

"We were put to work at the level of a parliamentary committee," Chancellor Kohl afterwards admitted, "and it was too much for us."

The European Community has definitely reached a critical turning-point, and the Chancellor's comment to this effect refers to more than the material side of the EEC summit failure.

Doubts arose more than ever as to whether a community such as the EEC with its procedures of arriving at decisions can still be salvaged.

For years it has staggered from one failure to the next. Athens was by no means the first Common Market summit that failed to achieve results or to issue a final communiqué or declaration.

Prime Minister Papandreou, who chaired the summit, eventually refused to make the otherwise customary political declarations on burning international issues.

Given the EEC's inability to solve its own problems it would have been presumptuous, he felt, to express an opinion on the problems of others.

Declarations had been drafted on the Middle East, Lebanon and Central America and on the international economic situation.

They were the subjects he felt it would not befit the Common Market to pass judgment on. The prepared statements were accordingly shelved.

What the EEC leaders discussed in Athens was complicated details, figures and formulas such as had previously been delegated to expert working parties by the Foreign and Finance Ministers.

The ball was now returned to the Common Market leaders' court.

In Stuttgart they had authorised wide-ranging negotiations on all problems connected with the package agreed on the European Community's financial troubles and further progress.

But the integration policy guidelines hurriedly put together in Stuttgart were clearly not enough. What was fed into the procedure from below failed to lead to wide-ranging negotiations.

The outcome was merely a bazaar, with everyone bargaining to the best of their ability and their own benefit. The summit was merely a superior bazaar.

So Athens was more than just a failure to reach agreement on the issues discussed. With taxpayers' money at stake it was dynamite.

The outcome of the Athens summit was a declaration of bankruptcy of the institutional system designed 26 years ago for six countries.

The system has since become stultified and is no longer capable of achieving what is possible in the 10-member EEC.

Enlargement of the community to 12 members seems bound to be a catastrophe unless it is used as an opportunity of thoroughly modernising and purging the procedural rut.

Carl A. Ehrhardt
(Handelsblatt, 7 December 1983)

Outlook for Middle East fraught with danger signs

One of many gloomy forecasts for the next year is that of a military clash between Syria and Israel, with no-one sure if it would remain a limited, local conflict.

The situation is all the more explosive now the raid by US Sixth Fleet aircraft on Syrian positions on the Lebanese border has been widely interpreted in the Middle East as the result of US-Israeli collusion.

Coming as it did shortly after Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir's visit to Washington, it was seen as the first outcome of secret agreements.

Israeli public opinion views with great reservation the closing of ranks by Washington and Jerusalem. Opposition spokesmen in particular are worried at the idea of strategic coordination.

What upset them is the idea that Israel is allowing itself to be taken into tow by Washington and is likely to embark on a course that is more in America's interest than in Israel's own.

Washington's main interest is in bolstering Lebanon as a bulwark against Soviet influence. Second, the US government would like to bring the marines home as soon as possible and in time for the US Presidential elections.

America needs Israel, especially the Israeli armed forces, if it is to achieve these targets. Israel is to speed up developments and force the Syrians [...]

How will Damascus react? [...] being ready to negotiate to the [...] withdrawing its forces from Leb[...] by resorting to military action?

The enormous build-up of [...] missiles, aircraft and artillery on [...] rian side is a sign that Israeli [...] tion may not even be needed to [...] war machine in motion.

In a similar situation Israel [...] along the lines of "attack is the be[st de]fence." The Israeli military have [consi]dered a preventive strike this [...] but dismissed the idea.

The Israeli public are not keen [...] idea and the country's economi[c ...] does not encourage it either. The [...] are weary, *Haaretz*, the Tel Aviv [...] paper writes, characterising the [...] public feeling.

Would a military attack on Syria [...] Israel's interest in any case? [...] cally, the Americans are keen on [...] rian withdrawal from Lebanon than [...] Israelis are.

Now that Menachem Begin and [...] Sharon have quit the forefront of [...] political stage Israel has shown [...] ambitions of intervening in Leb[anese] domestic affairs and establishing [...] order in Beirut.

This ambition has now been [...] ced by Washington, which is deter[mined] by any means at its command to [...] up the pro-Western regime of [...] Gemayel.

No-one in Jerusalem is under[estima]ting the Syrian danger, of cour[se ...] Syrians have more in mind than [...] ting the territories taken over by [...] in 1967.

The issue, as Damascus sees it, [...] of principle: whether Syria can [...] with Israel. The Syrians say it can[...] President Assad as the most [...] der of the rejectionist front has [...] ded in dissuading Jordan from [...] part in the peace process.

He has also prevented Egypt [...] being fully received back into the [...] world and fought Yasser Arafat be[cause] the PLO leader was toying with the [...] of a confederation of Jordan and P[ales]tine.

Damascus can count on a pow[erful] ally, the Soviet Union.

Between July and November 198[3 Sy]ria took delivery of 30,000 tons of S[...] arms and military equipment [...] $2bn.

Thus reinforced militarily, Damas[cus] might well decide to wage war [...] A pretext could be found any day.

Israel in the embrace of Big Br[other] America will find it hard shake [...] blood-caked mire of Lebanon fr[om its] feet.

Herbert Frerk[...]
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 8 December [1983])

Athens failure makes clear need for European integration

After the fiasco of the Athens summit Western European integration is more urgently needed than ever.

Many people in the Common Market countries would much rather run their own affairs without constant interference from their EEC partners.

But European integration remains indispensable. It must go ahead.

The technology gap by which Europe trails behind the United States and Japan cannot be bridged without combined efforts and a large domestic sales market as a base.

No individual state can hold its own against the world powers of trade, monetary policy and commodity supplies. The Efta states are happy to nestle in the EEC's lee, for instance.

The swiftly growing need to influence US policy along European lines calls for concentrated effort in the Old World. So do relations with the neighbouring East Bloc.

Cooperation at the EEC level brings benefits in dealings with the East, including intra-German rapprochement, with the GDR deriving benefit as an unofficial member of the Common Market.

The 10-member European Community, shortly due to number 12 member-countries, is nearing the limits of its ability to act.

It is no longer able to cope with national egoism. The Treaty of Rome envisaged majority decisions to deal with this problem, but in 1966 France stripped the EEC Commission in Brussels of power by scrapping majority voting.

All major decisions in the Common Market have since had to be reached unanimously.

There is no imperative need for the European Commission to take part in the process; no decision necessarily bears the hallmark of common European ideas.

Besides, the obligation to reach unanimous agreement leads to endless delays and makes the Community incapable of action.

Britain, Denmark, Greece and would-be member Spain are opposed to majority decisions by the Council of Ministers. Whether France is prepared to reconsider for the sake of progress toward integration remains to be seen.

It could happen if, for instance, European economic and welfare integration were to be followed by technological and arms integration and swift progress toward a European defence community.

These are all ideas that have been under discussion for over a year in Paris as a morning gift to Europe by the French Socialist government.

A sound European Community is a vital interest for the divided German nation, the free majority of which needs a wider homeland.

Popular emotion, including German sentiment, could be rearoused for a Europe of social justice in which all men are brothers, starting with the West.

The West would then provide a model for a peace order for Europe as a whole. It would also show that Europeans can work and live in prosperity with the Germans.

That would lay the groundwork, and arguably already does, for the consent of all neighbouring countries that would later be needed to German unity.

Hermann Bohle
(Kieler Nachrichten, 12 December 1983)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Strauss sounds a warning over Lambsdorff affair

[F]ranz Josef Strauss, the leader of the Christian Social Union, has warned the government could be heading [for] a crisis over Economic Affairs Minister Count Otto Lambsdorff and the [Flic]k affair.

Strauss said Chancellor Kohl should [be] careful not to lose control over what [is ha]ppening.

His choice of words was not delicate. [He] spoke of a crisis, and that is not [norm]ally used in this sort of context at [this] sort of level except when a government is in so deep that it cannot pull itself out.

[It] was the sort of admonishment that [is no]t given to a Chancellor in full control. It needs to be taken as a serious [warn]ing.

Another way of phrasing the criticism [migh]t be to say: when a government is [in] crisis, replacing a Cabinet member [is n]ot enough. A new Chancellor is needed.

Strauss' remarks are reminiscent of [wha]t he told the late Chancellor Ludwig [Erh]ard after a disastrous election defeat [in] North Rhine-Westphalia in 1966: [Th]ere is a time bomb ticking away on [you]r desk."

Although Strauss did not go quite as [far] as that this time, this is the second [occ]asion he has given Chancellor Kohl [a s]erious warning.

The first was over the nomination of [Berl]in Mayor Richard von Weizsäcker [to] succeed President Karl Carstens.

The CSU then simply said that it was [up] to the CDU to arrange the succession [in] a way that would safeguard itself.

[Hel]mut Kohl's obstacle course is thus [gra]dually being delineated.

He knows now what is in store for him, and he knows that he will have to prove his worth — at the latest in the Berlin and North Rhine Westphalia elections next year.

Considering the way CDU and CSU have been treating each other since coming to power, this is almost an honourable stance.

Whether the Chancellor is in a position to accept the challenge will largely depend on the manner in which he settles the crisis over his Economic Affairs Minister.

Here the word "crisis" is appropriate. The discussion surrounding Count Lambsdorff is developing into an explosive brew that could severely limit the capacity of Kohl and Lambsdorff to make their own decisions.

Some CDU members have — if only indirectly — expressed doubts about Lambsdorff's ability.

When CDU general secretary Heiner Geissler said that Germany has fallen behind in technology and that this could pose a threat to its existence, he is unlikely to have meant to put all the blame on the former government. After all, the new government has been in office for a year.

Geissler did not directly attack Lambsdorff, but he is trying to provide a safety valve for the growing ranks of the disaffected in the CDU/CSU.

Their view is that an effective Economic Affairs Minister is the best guarantee of af a sound economic policy.

How is one to interpret Geissler's statement that the CDU now wants to concentrate on economic policy of not as an admission that there is much lost ground to be recaptured?

The mere announcement of such intentions means that the CDU wants to draft a new economic policy concept — either because Lambsdorff's policy is not clear or because it is not liked by the CDU.

This adds a third component to the already existing moral-political and legal components: an ability evaluation. This is hard on Lambsdorff because almost everybody in the CDU is handing out heavy praise for Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg.

Those who urge Lambsdorff to stay in office because sinister powers have done him an injustice are only superficially doing him a favour.

What they are actually doing is to force Lambsdorff to enter a dispute that he could not win even if his nerves were a lot stronger and his friends more numerous than he claims.

It is his backers who prove that the government would weather the attacks much more effectively if he resigned.

The increasingly fierce dispute between the parties and between the coalition and the judiciary is poisoning the atmosphere. The irritability in dealing with each other is affecting a government that more than a year ago promised to bring about a political change or at least improve the climate.

Even the more favourable tones with which Kohl must be credited are being drowned in the general cacophony.

Though there is no sign of the government crisis that Strauss seems to think exists, the nation has been known to let itself get talked into a crisis.

Klaus Dreher
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 6 December 1983)

Weizsäcker set to become next president

[R]ichard von Weizsäcker will succeed Karl Carstens to become the Federal Republic's sixth president.

This has been a foregone conclusion [sin]ce Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the [ch]airman of the CDU, officially nominated him.

The CDU/CSU, which has the absolute majority in the electoral college, has [o]pted for the best man.

No other candidate has had better [qu]alifications for the post: political experience in government and opposition, [for]eign experience and, above all, a degree of tolerance that transcends party [lin]es and age groups.

Von Weizsäcker is the first presidential nominee who can be certain of [br]oad approval even by the strongest of [o]ppositions, in this case the SPD.

SPD parliamentary leader Hans-Jochen Vogel said that it was important [th]at badly divided political parties agree [on] a president.

The SPD's decision not to nominate a candidate of its own underscores the solidarity of the nation's democratic forces [de]spite policy differences.

There were times when Helmut Kohl [an]d others thought about a different [n]ominee for fear that CDU and FDP [wo]uld lose the Berlin election without [vo]n Weizsäcker at the head of the Senate.

It speaks for Kohl and his party that [the]y put the nation's good above party [in]terests in Berlin.

Werner Neumann
(Lübecker Nachrichten, 29 November 1983)

Berlin Mayor Richard von Weizsäcker is (?) can be certain of a large majority in the presidential electoral college election in May.

Weizsäcker, who was born in Stuttgart in 1920, comes from a long line of Protestant theologians, jurists and politicians.

His grandfather, Carl von Weizsäcker, was Prime Minister of Württemberg. His brother, Carl Friedrich, is a prominent physicist and philosopher.

As the child of a diplomat, Richard von Weizsäcker went to school in Copenhagen and Berne. He graduated from high school in Berlin.

After university at Oxford and Grenoble (1937/38) he went into the Wehrmacht.

At the end of the war he was a captain in the reserve.

Weizsäcker completed his law studies after the war. He joined the Mannesmann company's legal department and, in 1954, earned his doctorate in law.

By 1958, when he left Mannesmann, he had risen to head of the economics department.

Apart from his executive functions in industry and banking, Weizsäcker has been involved in church affairs and politics from an early age.

He has been member of the Protestant Church Executive Board since 1962.

In 1964, he was elected honorary president of of the *Kirchentag* (standing conference of churches), a post he held until August 1970.

He played a major role in bringing about the first Protestant-Catholic Church Conference in 1979.

Weizsäcker joined the CDU in 1954 and has been a member of its national executive since 1966.

In the re-elections of 1973, 1975 and


Richard von Weizsäcker ... everybody's choice. (Photo: Poly-Press)

1979 he won the largest majorities ever.

He was given second place on the Rhineland-Palatinate state electoral list and voted into the Bundestag in 1969. He was reelected in 1972, 1976 and 1980.

It was largely due to his work that the CDU/CSU, though it opposed the East Bloc Treaties, made their ratification possible by abstaining.

Weizsäcker was a candidate for the Berlin mayoralty in 1979. But he was defeated by his Social Democratic opponent, Dietrich Stobbe.

His party won the spring 1981 election and later that year the assembly elected him mayor.

After two years Opposition, his party entered a coalition with the FDP in March 1983.

Von Weizsäcker is married and has three sons and a daughter.

His hobbies are chess and mountaineering and his favourite authors are Shakespeare and Theodor Fontane.

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 29 November 1983)

Turbulent week, but all is not darkness

The outlook is not all bleak despite a turbulent week in the Bundestag. The European Community will muddle along in spite of the breakdown of the Athens Summit. And the budget just passed by the Bundestag is one of recovery.

The vicious circle of willy-nilly borrowing has been overcome even though experts know the country will continue to groan under a mountain of debt. This debt will make innovative investment almost impossible for the next 10 to 15 years.

Both the Chancellor and the Finance Minister made this quite clear in the budget debate.

There was a clear warning that the nation is far from over the hump despite the silver lining.

Projecting the debate on the 1984 budget to the overall domestic and foreign affairs picture, it becomes apparent that the coalition's performance has been better than the mood.

The coalition still finds it difficult to sell itself. But charges by the SPD opposition that the Chancellor and his government have failed all along the line are only ritual.

Where should the political parties fight it out if not in the Bundestag? It is there that they must articulate their opposing political positions. And it is there that the elected representatives of the people have a right to voice their claims to leadership.

The budget debate provided an overall picture of Germany's domestic and foreign affairs. From the Opposition point of view, it was a squaring of accounts with the government.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's report on the Athens Summit was not encouraging. But in the subsequent debate he left no doubt as to who drafts the policy guidelines.

Naturally, every budget reflects a policy idea. Its statistics and nuances reflect the aims of the government. And it is exactly here that the government revealed weaknesses.

What the public expects is a timetable that would show which problems will be solved by whom in the next three years.

The government can chalk it up as a success that business has declared 1983 the year of the turn for the better.

But there is still a wide gap between lip service and performance.

There are enormous tasks in social and economic policies (not to mention the European Community). But if the signs are anything to go by, the "hot autumn" will be followed by a mild winter.

Alois Rummel
(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 9 December 1983)



■ MINORITY GROUPS

No sign yet of mooted new Aliens Act

Bonn's aliens policy is based on three principles: to integrate foreign workers and their families who have lived for some time in Germany; to restrict the numbers of new migrants; and to encourage voluntary repatriation.

Legislation aimed at helping voluntary repatriation has been passed, but after all the hue and cry, it turned out to be a modest piece of law.

But it demonstrates the government's intention to do something. Nothing more ambitious was possible because of a lack of funds (included in the plan was a cash grant).

However, there is so far no sign of a new Aliens Act the Chancellor said was to have been drafted.

The Free Democrats, junior partner in the Bonn coalition, seem prepared to risk a head-on clash with Interior Minister Zimmermann on the age limit up to which children are to be allowed to join their parents in Germany.

Herr Zimmermann is determined to limit this right to six years as against the current limit of 16.

But Labour Minister Norbert Blüm, unlike his Social Democratic predecessors, is not in favour of such a sweeping change.

Neither is Frau Funcke, the FDP's aliens affairs commissioner, who is often referred to by FDP leader and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher as the migrant workers' angel.

[illegible] to Herr Zimmermann's proposals, he seems unlikely to gain his point on this occasion.

Frau Funcke and the Free Democrats have an easier time of it now the 1982 figures have shown more foreign nationals to have left Germany than have arrived.

In 1982, for the first time since 1977, the net figure was an outflow: 111,600. It was the same story in the first quarter of 1983: 59,600 immigrants to 95,000 emigrés, or returnees.

Aliens policy restrictions have made their mark on the figures, as has the general state of the economy.

This combination may have taken the immediate urgency out of the problem, but it is still far too early to give the all-clear.

The net outflow is not certain to continue. The economy is picking up and job prospects for foreign workers are improving.

The number of children affected by the Interior Minister's proposal to reduce the age limit can only be estimated.

Turkish workers in the Federal Republic are estimated to have about 160,000 children aged between six and 16 back home in Turkey.

Several conditions must in any case be fulfilled before children can join their parents in Germany. Maybe 90,000 to 100,000 in this age group could do so as the law stands.

The true number, Frau Funcke's staff say, is more likely to be 40,000 to 50,000. About half the Turkish workers in Germany are seriously considering returning home.

They also claim the risk of a fresh wave of immigration resulting from a spate of Turkish weddings is fairly slight, existing restrictions being what they are.

There is no doubt that a decision not to impose further restrictions on immigration, as favoured by the FDP, might be the lesser evil.

It would certainly be so in relation to the Turkish "invasion" forecast for after 1986 when, by the terms of Turkey's association agreement with the EEC, Turkish workers would be freely entitled to live and work anywhere in the Common Market.

Herr Genscher and other Free Democrats have on several occasion conveyed the impression that Turkey would only be willing to forgo this right if Bonn didn't reduce the age limit for children.

Yet the terms of the association agreement dealing with freedom of domicile and employment are subject to interpretation.

Herr Genscher has been accused by both CDU/CSU politicians and trade union officials well-disposed toward his views on aliens policy, such as Siegfried Bleicher of the DGB national executive, of not having been energetic enough in his efforts to persuade the European Commission to amend these provisions.

History must weigh heavily on any German government. None can afford to create the impression of pursuing an inhuman aliens policy. Its international standing would plummet as a result.

Yet it would be asking too much of the Federal Republic to expect it to help solve the employment problems of other countries in addition to its own.

On the home front the Bonn government is bound to be measured by the yardstick of its success in dealing with employment problems.

It could well create even more difficulties for itself with its aliens policy. Bonn is walking a tight-rope in this connection.

Difficult though the tight-rope walk may be, continued uncertainty over aliens policy is irresponsible, especially toward foreign residents.

It is time the various government departments agreed on a draft of a new Aliens Bill to be submitted to the Bonn Cabinet.

There must be an end to double standards in aliens policy.

It is true that children who come to Germany at a late age have a harder time at school and find it harder to get a job, whereas children who arrive here aed six or below stand a much better chance of integration.

But those who want to stem the tide for labour market and demographic reasons ought to own up and stop relying on arguments that serve merely as camouflage.

Rainer Nahrendorf

(Handelsblatt, 7 December 1983)



United Nations' refugees high commissioner Poul Hartling (centre) with Chancellor Kohl (right) and Interior Minister Zimmermann in Bonn. (Photo: Bundesbild[illegible])

Apology over leaked asylum report

UN high commissioner for refugees Poul Hartling has expressed [illegible] that a confidential report by his [illegible] was leaked.

The report levelled massive criticism at the treatment of applicants for asylum in the Federal Republic. A visit to Bonn he was due to make in September [illegible] postponed because of the leak.

The report has now been officially published in Geneva. It recommends improvements in conditions in accommodation for refugees and asylum applicants, Mr Hartling said. It was in [illegible] trained terms.

Mr Hartling conferred in Bonn [illegible] Chancellor Kohl, Interior Minister Zimmermann, Foreign Minister Genscher and SPD leader Willy Brandt.

The UN high commissioner, a former Danish Prime Minister, also met [illegible] bers of the home affairs committee[illegible] the Bundestag and the Bundesrat.

The Chancellor promised him [illegible] would continue to help fund the agency's work in spite of budget constraints in Germany.

Next year Bonn is to contribute $2.2m, an increase of 20 per cent on 1983. Germany currently accounts for 6.6 per cent of the agency's budget.

That makes the Federal Republic [illegible] third-largest donor. Only the United States and Japan pay more: 25 and 15 per cent respectively.

The UN agency looks after 10 million refugees, mainly in South-East Asia, Africa and Central America.

In the Federal Republic the *Länder*, or Federal states, spend DM700m a year on about 100,000 refugees in Germany.

Mr Hartling said he was worried by the growing misgivings about foreigners in the industrialised countries.

The Federal Republic was exemplary in that the right of asylum was included in its constitution. His agency benefited from both cash and other assistance from Bonn and the European Community.

All political parties in Bonn agreed that refugees deserved to be treated in a manner in keeping with human dignity.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 8 December 1983)

Refugees 'just a small problem in Europe'

The problem of refugees in Western Europe is not as great as people think, says Gilbert Jaeger, president of UNICEF.

He told a meeting in Constance that recession and unemployment was fuelling hostility towards refugees. The hostility was aggravated because refugees and other foreigners tended to be lumped together.

The number of refugees coming into Western Europe was greatly exaggerated. In 1981, there were 600,000, or 0.14 per cent of the population.

Of these, 117,000 came to West Germany, 0.16 per cent of the population. Germany would receive about 20,000 asylum applications this year, or 0.03 per cent of the population.

This meant that the number of refugees in Western Europe was low. The real problem was in Asia and Africa.

But there was disagreement from another delegate, Bernhard Happe, of Cologne. Speaking as a representative of *Deutscher Städtetag*, the standing conference of German cities, he said refugees were posing a big problem for the municipalities involved which had to provide housing and other aid.

Close to 100,000 refugees had to be accommodated in 1980. This, plus the foreigners already in the country, meant there was a real problem.

A Munich member of the Bundestag, Sieghard Rost (CSU), said that Germans did not differentiate between foreigners and refugees.

Displaced persons, refugees and repatriates were all lumped together. This worsened the problem.

Delegates, from Germany, Austria and Switzerland agreed that the most important areas of help were access to the job market, language, integration and orientation courses, housing and social assistance. They deplored that fact that refugees are increasingly forced to live in hostels.

The meeting was organised by the *Diakonisches Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland* (a Protestant Church organisation) and its counterparts in Austria and Switzerland.

Klaus Feldmann of the UN High Commission for Refugees in Geneva suggested that refugees from non-European countries come to Europe because help was not available in other countries closer to home.

Another delegate said ties dating back to the colonial era also contributed to this.

The global number of refugees is estimated at between 10m and 15m. Most have found a permanent place to settle.

Bundestag member Horst Jaunisch (SPD) stressed that Germany sheltered and integrated 14 million displaced persons and refugees after the war.

Germany also had 4.7 million forei-

Continued on page 5

PERSPECTIVE

Germany, America: differing approaches to politics

[illegible]ordon Craig, a leading US modern historian, has been awarded an ho[illegible]ry degree by the history department [illegible] Free University of Berlin.

For several days leading up to the [illegible]d ceremony a symposium was held [illegible] Germany and the West. It was ad[illegible]sed by leading historians.

Professor Craig said in his lecture on [illegible] foreign policies of the United States [illegible] Germany, that over the years the [illegible] countries had arrived at fundamen[illegible]y different points of view.

The Germans had entered modern [illegible]tory as a nation that viewed the state [illegible] an ideal. The Americans attached im[illegible]tance to the idea of popular sov[illegible]eignty rather than that of the state.

The different views on foreign policy [illegible] because of this difference in start[illegible] points.

In Germany foreign policy was the [illegible] domain of statesmen and subject to [illegible] d'état, which in its turn made use [illegible] alliances, the quest for balance and [illegible]ing of war.

Foreign affairs were viewed as a matter for diplomats and career politicans, and not for the man in the street.

Professor Craig contrasted this outlook with the traditional American principle of not allowing the United States to become mixed up in the dealings of the Old World

Since the US Declaration of Independence foreign policy had been viewed as an evil, and at one stage America was proud of the idea US foreign policy consisted of not having a policy.

The balance-of-power system and international alliance policies were seen as something threatening. They were felt to be ominous from Adams to Woodrow Wilson, he said.

If America had pursued foreign policies, then they had been expected to be keeping with the will of the people, there by demonstrating the moral superiority of the American people over other continents

In Germany this moral view of politics had been lacking, not to say rejected. In America the ideological factor had prompted one President after another to offer his fellow-countrymen a fundamental moral justification of his policy

Thinking in terms of friend and foe, up to and including the division of the world into good and evil under President Reagan, had been the result, [illegible] war was seen as a breach of the law of common sense, aggressors were seen as evil-doers and their destruction as legitimate.

The traditional German view since Clausewitz, that war was merely a continuation of politics by other means, was alien to Americans. For them wars had more in common with crusades

Against the background of this line a argument Professor Craig explained American isolationist policy after the First World War as a reversion to longstanding tradition.

It had come about after President Wilson's idealistic expectations of American involvement in the First World War had been let down by the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

President Roosevelt had long followed this isolationist trend, and America entered the Second World War less as a result of realising how dangerous Hitler was for the world than on account of the Japanese raid on Pearl Harbour.

A typical point, as Craig saw it, was that the Americans under Roosevelt lacked a rational policy concept for postwar Germany and Europe.

It took their dispute with the Russians between 1947 and 1949 over Berlin and Germany to convince them of the need for a reorientation.

The result was that the United States for the first time in its history forged long-term alliance links in pacts such as Nato.

German reunification had been of no importance to US foreign policy since Kennedy and Nixon.

Their policies of balance of power and quest for a modus vivendi with the Soviet Union were based on the unviolability of existing borders and renunciation of the use of force.

US policy was thus based on the division of Germany as a foundation of the modus vivendi sought with the Soviet Union.

The reason for the change-over from this detente policy to a new ice age was, as Professor Craig saw it, that [illegible] traditional suspicion of *realpolitik* and juggling with the balance of power.

But the reversion to traditional American attitudes had not changed US alliance policy inasmuch as America under President Reagan had strengthened Nato and the United States was continuing to shoulder its European responsibilities.

In his address in honour of Professor Craig the president of the Free University, Professor Heckelmann, recalled Craig's longstanding ties with Berlin and the university.

He first taught at the Free University in 1962 when he was appointed to the Theodor Heuss chair endowed by the Ford Foundation.

Gordon Craig (left) receives his honorary doctorate of philosophy from Professor Dieter Hertz-Eichenrode at the Free University of Berlin. (Photo: Friedrich)

He was an honorary professor at the Free University and had remained loyal to Berlin throughout the years of campus unrest and university reform, Professor Heckelmann said.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 4 December 1983)

Continued from page 4

[illegible]s. It was up to the political parties [illegible] create an atmosphere of tolerance.

[illegible] Reimann of the Berne Foreign [illegible]ce and Johann Pachernegg of the [illegible] Interior Ministry pointed to the [illegible] of Switzerland and Austria as clas[illegible] havens and transit countries for re[illegible]es.

[illegible] Reimann said that there were 33,000 [illegible]gees and almost a million foreigners [illegible] Switzerland — a higher percentage [illegible] in Germany — and that this had [illegible] unrest. A bill that would have [illegible]med residence provisions for forei[illegible] had been defeated in Parliament.

[illegible] Pachernegg spoke of his country's [illegible] disasters" in the wake of the [illegible]garian uprising and the "Prague [illegible]ing."

[illegible] dealt with the influx of repatri[illegible]s from Eastern Europe as what he [illegible] a "German speciality."

He said that there were barely any [illegible] Germans arriving from Russia [illegible] Poland now. But the influx from [illegible]ania had increased.

He put this year's estimate for ethnic [illegible] from Rumania at 17,000. The [illegible]blems here were essentially the same [illegible] with refugees.

There were still between 260,000 and [illegible] a million Germans in communist [illegible] countries waiting to come.

There was a growing number of [illegible] Germans coming with the repatri[illegible], with or without exit permits.

The general view was that Germany [illegible] take more migrants.

Happe suggested that there was no [illegible] general hostility towards foreigners but [illegible] fear of unemployment lead to indi[illegible] antagonism.

Rost concluded that the main ele[illegible] governing public attitudes to[illegible] refugees were fear, envy and [illegible]passion.

Improved integration of refugees, [illegible] Jaeger said, was largely a matter [illegible] cooperation between government au[illegible]rities and private charities, plus [illegible] awareness.

A note of warning against isolating re[illegible]gees in hostels was sounded.

Werner Gutmann

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 2 December 1983)

Nato initiative

Continued from page 1

capability is not going to make much difference in this respect. Quite apart from the cost and the technical problems, nuclear weapons will still not be superfluous. The most that can be expected is that they will not need to be used at as early a stage of hostilities as at present.

[illegible]trophe. Besides, it would presuppose a Soviet attack.

That brings us full-circle, with views differing widely on whether a Soviet attack is at all conceivable and how it might be made less probable.

How much deterence is enough? And to what extent can co-operation with the Soviet leadership — any Soviet leadership — make renunciation once and for all of political and military expansion, at least in Europe, a palatable prospect?

View will long continue to differ on this point, but the nuclear risk is steadily increasing and the time available for arriving at a compromise is not unlimited.

Hans Gerlach

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 10 December 1983)

Nationalist and neutralist trends have been more active in Germany since the early 1980s, Cologne historian Andreas Hillgruber has told a Berlin conference on Germany and the West.

It was an international symposium of historians hosted by the history department of the Free University of Berlin

This nationalist and neutralist revival, the Cologne historian said, ought not to be termed irrational and incomprehensible.

It must be seen as a reaction to US policy on Germany since 1945, he argued in an interpretation of all-German trends in the GDR and nationalist tendencies in the Federal Republic.

He felt the United States had switched from an offensive anti-East freedom policy to a policy of balance of power respecting US and Soviet interests and guided be the status quo of division.

By virtue of the concept of a Western Germany as it emerged in 1946 and 1947 a kind of pact had been incorporated in the treaty in which the Western Allies had granted the Federal Republic of Germany its independence.

'Change of line' in Washington foreign policy

The Federal Republic and the Western Allies had undertaken to advocate a reunited Germany with a constitution similar to Bonn's and an integral member of the European Community.

But the decoupling of the desire for detente and disarmament from the originally paramount aim of reunification had quickly prevailed in the West, especially in the United States.

This "pact" had been abandoned at the latest when President Kennedy assumed office. There was no longer any serious sign of US commitment on reunification.

By means of his new *Ostpolitik* Chancellor Brandt had sought to ease the dilemma in which policy toward the East Bloc was caught.

Bonn's treaties with the East Bloc countries and the Basic Treaty with the GDR were widely interpreted as recognition of the division of Germany.

They finally reduced to more scraps of paper previous commitments and declarations, Hillgruber said.

It had since often been argued that the Germans had to renounce the right to self-determination because the balance of power in Europe was based on the division of Germany.

He said that the Germans' right to self-determination only applied to the territories they were allowed by the Allies to retain.

Territories east of the Oder-Neisse line that now formed part of Poland were not affected.

A clear statement of intent on this point, reunification of the Federal Republic, the GDR and Berlin, might play a part in taking Western policy on Germany out of a blind alley, he said. He called for greater commitment on the part of the United States in particular.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 4 December 1983)

A theory that the main culprit for the damage to German forests is not acid rain but ozone is becoming more widely accepted.

The suggestion was first made last year by the Institute for Emission Protection in Essen. But it was received with scepticism.

Damage to forests in Germany is increasing at an enormous rate. A report now says that 35 per cent of forest area is affected compared with eight per cent in 1982. Foresters say those figures are conservative.

Acid rain has been blamed by most people. But that is changing.

Professor Hans-Achim Gussone, of the Göttingen Forestry Experimental Station, says there is much about the damage that just cannot be explained.

A timber authority at Freiburg University, Professor Horst Courtois, says all the talk about acid rain is nonsense. He says a malignant fungus called *fomus annosus* is causing the damage.

Professor Otto Kandler, of Munich, believes the cause has yet to be discovered.

Another forestry expert, Claus Schulte-Uebbing, blames microwaves.

The fact is that few are sure of anything. However Professor Heinrich Stratmann, head of the Emission Protection Institute believes in the ozone theory.

Last year, nobody could think of anything but acid rain, and one of its component parts, sulphur dioxide was blamed as the sole culprit — much to the annoyance of power station managements.

Then North Rhine-Westphalia's Labour and Social Affairs Minister, Friedhelm Farthmann, caused a sensation by announcing that a new major culprit

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Ozone at centre of a new theory about dying trees

Saarbrücker Zeitung

had been found by the Essen Institute: ozone.

The immediate reaction was that North Rhine-Westphalia simply wanted to remove any blame from coal and the power stations.

But today many scientists find the theory plausible.

Ozone, an oxidation agent, is formed by a reaction between nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons when exposed to strong sunlight. Professor Stratmann and his closest collaborator, Dr Prinz, realised that acid rain alone could not be at the root of the problem.

Trees they looked at in the Black Forest and which had been allegedly killed by acid rain had a rich growth of lichen.

The lichen, which is sensitive to air pollution, was thriving in sulphur dioxide (SO_2) contaminated areas.

Trees in lime soil, which should have been particularly well protected, were dying. Yet down in the valley, where the SO_2 concentration was particularly high, they were doing well.

The scientists also found that trees were dying near the Schauinsland data collection station where the SO_2 concentration was only 5 microgrammes per cubic metre of air.

Ozone came under further suspicion when was found that most of the damage was to the tree tops, where the greatest exposure to sunlight is.

The sun is a catalyst in the manufacture of ozone, causing the reaction between nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons. Nitrogen oxides can form a diluted form of acid that is wahsed into the soil by rain.

In this way, nitrogen oxides play a major role in acid rain which, along with SO_2, is not freed from blame just because ozone is now the main culprit.

The damage increases progressively as SO_2 combines with ozone. Ozone cracks the protective layer of leaves, paving the way for other toxic substances.

Doctors involved in the SO_2 discussion have pointed to the clearly established link between this toxic gas and bronchial cancer in humans. So what troubles trees also troubles people.

The Essen Institute can recognise the cause of tree ailments by the symptoms: SO_2 leads to yellowish and brown tints. Ozone creates little brown spots on leaves and needles. Yellowing throughout indicates a combination of culprits.

In the Fichtelgebirge range and in the Black Forest, Institute scientists have now found a new type of damage, trees whose leaves are yellow underneath and green on top. They cannot explain the phenomenon.

The ozone theory gets more support from the fact that the sulphur dioxide content of rain has not risen since 1976. But the nitrogen oxide emission has risen some 70 per cent since 1966, primarily due to the increase in motor traffic.

The only plausible conclusion must be to drastically reduce the emission of hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides.

In Germany, motor traffic accounts for about 45 per cent of the overall nitrogen oxide emission of 3,000 kilotons. Power stations and district heating plants account for 31 per cent.

It is technically possible to make exhaust fumes almost completely non-toxic.

German motor manufacturers use catalysts that are now standard for cars exported to the USA and Japan.

But they oppose Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann's deadline for the installation of catalysts in all new cars by 1 January 1986.

The industry argues that many engines depend on lead in petrol and that the use of the unleaded variety calls for new materials and different cylinder heads.

The petrol-air mixture in the carburettor would have to be electronically controlled.

Oil companies will be able to provide enough lead-free petrol by 1986.

The question is, is there enough time left to save the forests?

Catalysts cannot be introduced from one day to the next. Neither can installations to remove SO_2 from industrial smoke be bought off the peg. And the investments needed are enormous.

For instance, Saarbergwerke has to invest DM70m to increase the emission of desulphurised smoke of its Bexbach plant from 35 to 70 per cent.

It will take another DM100m to comply with new regulations that permit only 400mg of SO_2 per cubic me[tre of] emission.

The company intends to set a[n] example and achieve the 400mg [stan]dard before the 1988 government [dead]line.

The same will be done to the W[eiher] III power station where 50 per c[ent of] the smoke will have 80 per cent [of its] sulphur filtered out.

Bexbach and Weiher III stations [are] already below permissible levels [of ni]trogen oxide emissions.

North Rhine-Westphalia's Steag [will] have to raise DM700m to adapt [its] power stations.

The company doubts whether [its] suppliers will be able to keep t[he] deadlines.

RWE has taken the big plunge [with lig]nite power stations, which are sp[...] as particularly bad polluters, [...] equipped with wet desulphuris[ation in]stallations worth DM2.5bn desp[ite the] lack of experience with this ty[pe of] high-tech equipment.

The dry additives in use up to [now] have not been very efficient.

Experts expect the wet process [to be more] effective.

They reckon that the SO_2 emis[sion of] the lignite power stations in the C[olog]ne-Düsseldorf-Aachen triangle w[ill go] down from the present 400,000 [tons a] year to 100,000 tons. Electricity [prices] will go up.

The installation of these new [technol]ogies will have an effect on the jo[b mar]ket. Many new jobs will have to be [crea]ted to convert old equipment and [pro]duce new purifying plants. The su[ppliers] are already working at capacity.

Environmentalists agree that th[ere is] no point in waiting until the reas[ons for] the forest death have been fu[lly re]searched.

Pollution must be reduced as q[uickly] as possible. But there are no re[medies] that can be introduced from one d[ay to] the next.

Large scale fertilising, a sugg[estion] that has been made on occasion, s[eems] unsuitable because lime can destroy surface fauna and flora.

Another approach would be to [ad]minister magnesium via the leaves [and] needles.

Laboratory experiments have b[een] positive. But a laboratory is one [thing] and a forest is another.

One hobby researcher has sugg[ested] that the problem be tackled with [a spe]cial mixture of sucrose and water. [The] fact that some scientists have ad[opted] this idea only underlines the g[eneral] helplessness.

Rainer W. [...]

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 19 Novem[ber 1983])

'They've solved the acid-rain pr[...]'

(Cartoon: [...])





■ LEARNING

A look into the mechanism of acquiring knowledge

[Spe]cialists in various disciplines from [sev]eral countries have spent a week [in W]est Berlin discussing the biology of [learn]ing.

[The]re may be no substitute for drill, [...] grease, personal experience or [...] mundane means of acquiring [know]ledge.

[But] scientists are still keen to find out [how] the brain comes by it. Maybe, they [...] knowing how it is done will make [...]ng easier.

[Inter]-disciplinary research is gradual[ly she]dding light on more and more of [the my]sterious goings-on that make up [mem]ory.

[Scien]tists are also learning more and [more a]bout learning.

[That] was the feeling at the Berlin ga[thering], a Dahlem workshop attended [by] leading psysiologists, psycholo[gists, z]oologists, neurologists, geneti[cists], ecologists, ethologists and lin[guists].

[They] came from six European and [oversea]s countries and were invited to [take] research finding an inter-disci[plinar]y level by the Scientific Research [Foun]dation and the Berlin Senate.

[How] is it that some kinds of bee know [from] infancy what plants they can rely [on for] nectar at what time of the year? It [is co]ngenital knowledge.

[Why] is it the honey bee only finds the [nectar] it needs for food at any given [time] of the year by seeking them out? It [has t]o find out by trial and error: by [learnin]g the hard way.

[Simila]r questions can be asked and [answe]red in repect of songbirds. Well [over h]alf are born able to sing, the re[mainde]r have to learn from their elders [how t]o sing properly.

[Clas]sical ethology, as represented by [the 19]73 Nobel Prize-winners Konrad [Lorenz] and Niklaas Tinbergen, empha[sises th]e inherited knowledge of man [and an]imals.

[Mor]e recent behaviourists, with refe[rence t]o Pavlov's dog, have argued that [an alm]ost unlimited amount of know[ledge] can be acquired. Suitable stimuli [and m]otives are all that matter.

[The] pendulum now seems to be swin[ging ba]ck toward the view that genetic [make-u]p has a decisive influence on the [learnin]g ability of each species and in[dividu]al.

[For] them personally, a number of [scienti]sts at the Berlin gathering said, [the att]raction lay in unveiling the [...] interaction between the genetic [...]ns and the environment in the [...] of learning.

[Ther]e certainly are fascinating con[nection]s. Linguists, for instance, are [studyin]g the development of human [speech b]y studying birds, not monkeys.

[Man] may be more closely related to [the ap]e, but there are amazing links [betwee]n speech and birdsong, says Pro[fessor] Klaus Immelmann, of Bielefeld.

[Bird]s for which song is not innate [have] to learn how to sing at a specific [stage o]f their develeopment. Earlier or [later th]ey find the going extraordinarily [...].

[It is] just the same with children. If [they le]arn at the right time they have litt[le diffi]culty. Otherwise they have trou[ble].

[Scien]tists refer to the sensitive stage, [...] at which a window is opened by [...] for the purpose of acquiring [know]ledge, then shut shortly afterwards.

[Pro]fessor Immelmann says is more [than a] grain of truth in the old adage [that wh]at you don't learn as a child you [will nev]er succeed in learning.

[Whil]e young blackbirds and finches [learn] how to sing properly they sit in the [nest] twittering sounds many of which [later] form part of their later repertoire.

They are lost, much like baby-talk. Babies too produce sounds they no longer need in adult speech.

The genes seem to work by selecting and suppressing whas hat been learnt or spontaneously acquired.

Observations such as and similar to these have led experts to conclude that the biological mechanism of learning is identical or at least closely related in man and animals.

The only difference is the greater extent to which the process is perfected among higher species.

What is more, the extent to which species and individuals adapt to their place in the scheme of things genetically determines the extent of their learning ability.

They simply don't learn what they don't need to know to cope with life.

Revealing information in this context was provided by Professor Martin Lindauer, of Würzburg, a student of Karl von Frisch, who deciphered the language of bees.

Bees, like other animals, are capable of selective learning. In their quest for nectar, for instance, they make a note of the position of the Sun, landmarks and flower colours.

But they don't bother with any other characteristics of the landscape.

Birds too learn only what they need to know, which is not to say that their genetic make-up, or that of other species, lacks greater potential.

This potential is suppressed, however, in relation to the species and its living environment.

When birds breed with other of their species they must be able to recognise their own chicks individually to feed them once they have left the nest.

Seagulls, which live in colonies, are past masters at recognising their young as soon as they have hatched.

Birds that breed on their own in contrast only get to know their young once they get out and about. They don't need to do so earlier.

But once the young leave the nest they can still not fend for themselves, so their parents still have to look after them and need to be able to recognise them.

The three-toed gull, which nests on its own along cliffs, never gets to recognise its young. It doesn't need to. As soon as they leave the nest they can fend for themselves.

With some exceptions man too can be said as a rule only to learn what he absolutely needs.

It is extremely important for people to recognise voices and language, Aachen neurolinguist Walter Huber told the conference.

But how does a child know what sounds are speech and what aren't? And how does it know when exposed to a confusion of languages which is its mother tongue?

There can be no doubt, Huber said, that babies have an inherent speech recognition facility that serves the purpose of learning the mother tongue.

A computer would be overtaxed mathematically if it were required to decide from a diet of grammars and word sequences which language was which.

Scientists are naturally keen to find out how and where in the brain the process of learning takes place and how, in the grid of billions of nerves cells, links between congenital and acquired knowledge are established.

Discoveries are often owed to people part of whose brains have been put out of action by accident or illness, such as a stroke.

Huber told the tale of patients who could no longer remember recent events but were perfectly aware of events two or more years earlier (before their illness).

They were able to learn how to solve certain intellectual tasks but unable to remember them the following day. On repetition they proved faster at solving them than newcomers, however.

Three inferences may be drawn. Their memories are intact. Their ability to retain what they have just learnt is damaged. The memory and the capacity for learning seem not to be located at the same point in the brain.

We must forget as a rule any idea that knowledge is stored in individual cells and specific areas of the brain, said Frankfurt brain specialist Professor Wolf Singer.

Individual items of knowledge, experience and memory of specific happenings are probably represented by identical neuron activity in a wide array of cells.

These cell patterns are probably arranged differently for each item of knowledge.

A fairly clear idea of how the short-term memory works is already available. Specific carrier substances similar to hormones in the brain change the information count of excited nerve cells during the learning process.

The long-term memory seems to be a more complicated business.

Specific proteins have not yet been extracted from cell matter as knowledge storage facilities. So there would seem to be no more point in the old idea of students simply eating their prof before the exam to be sure of top marks.

Yet proteins definitely play a key role. When the formation of proteins is impeded in nerve cells, Professor Lindauer explained, nothing more is allowed into the memory and nothing out of it.

Dieter Dietrich

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 21 November 1983)

Scientists peep at how the intellect grows

Some properties of the brain, such as certain learning abilities and special patterns of electrical activity, are genetically transmitted and handed down in keeping with simple rules.

Professor Friedrich Vogel, a Heidelberg geneticist, made this point in a lecture to the Science College in West Berlin.

In the quest for genes that influenced certain brain functions, he said, scientists were still virtually at square one.

He began by describing an experiment he and his staff had carried out in Heidelberg, where they had taught tricks to laboratory mice.

They were taught to move over to the other side of their cells to avoid an electric shock after a light shone.

Mice from various strains of inbreeding got the hang of it at varying speeds. Cross-breeding and genetic analysis showed differences in learning ability to be transmitted by a single gene.

The scientists then looked for biochemical and morphological changes that might account for the differences in learning skill.

Mice that were poor learners, they discovered, had an above-average number of synapses in a certain section of the hippocampus, a part of the brain associated with learning and the emotions.

But the causal connections between ability to learn and the structural difference had yet to be established.

In humans electric current in the brain, measured by electroencephalograph, are a fair guide to cerebral activity.

The electroencephalograms of different people are as distinctive as their handwriting. Characteristic patterns recur over long periods, Professor Vogel says.

He and his associates have accordingly looked into the hereditary character of electroencephalograms.

Probes have shown that identical twins have extremely similar patterns of electrical activity in the brain, which seems to prove that the electroencephalogram is strongly determined by the genes.

Electroencephalogram studies of children of various ages have shown distinctive changes to accompany stages on the road to maturity.

Intellectual ability develops along much the same lines. What is interesting is that although ages differ from child to child, they are identical in twins.

This too would seem to indicate that development is genetically controlled.

Professor Vogel and his staff were surprised when they investigated the genetic inheritance of certain electroencephalogram patterns that are fairly uncommon among the general public.

The alpha waves, or brain activity in a state of relaxation, are very meagre. This property is transmitted via a single gene, entirely in keeping with Mendel's rules.

Such a simple inheritance, which has since been shown to occur in connection with other infrequent electroencephalogram patterns, was not to be expected in connection with such a complex phenomenon.

No-one yet knows what mental properties occur in connection with these special EEG features, and that was the context in which criticism was voiced after the lecture.

What point was there in probing the genetics of electroencephalogram patterns when their relationship with mental functions was unknown?

Professor Vogel said there was no alternative as yet to investigating such easily measurable and constant characteristics as the EEG.

The part played by the genetic make-up in mapping out brain functions could only be ascertained by dissecting the complex processes that went on in the brain into simple partial processes.

Henning Engeln

(Der Tagesspiegel, 28 November 1983)

■ SOCIETY

Doctors hit out at prison conditions

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Conditions in German prisons are so bad, says a group of doctors and lawyers, that an organisation has been founded to do something about it.

Even prison warders admit that there is a lot wrong with medical treatment of prisoners, says the group.

One member of the new Joseph Neuberger Institute for Prison Medicine, prison doctor Annemarie Wiegand, related this story at a meeting in Bonn:

A woman prisoner in Berlin had been sent as a punishment to a cell known as the bunker for three days. The bunker had neither window nor running water. The toilet was a bucket and the bed was a mattress on a concrete platform.

Doctor Wiegand said the prisoner had been in poor health physically and psychologically. She had ordered her release from the cell.

The prisoner was taken instead to a solitary confinement cell where she tried to commit suicide.

Doctor Wiegand had complained to the prison authorities and had been told in a letter that there was no place in the prison service for doctors who concerned themselves too much about the fate of prisoners.

Delegates to the Bonn meeting were told of many other cases of alleged mishandling.

"What matters is to exercise control over a branch of medicine that stinks to high heaven," said Cologne lawyer Norbert Gatzweiler, one of the institute's founder members.

Georg Greeven said that, varying from state to state, some 60 per cent of the prison medical posts are left vacant.

Greeven is the chairman of the German Bar Association's trial lawyer branch and also chairman of the new institute.

The private practitioners prisons used instead of staff doctors were frequently unavailable, especially in emergencies.

Because of the acute shortage of doctors, he told the meeting non-doctors often medically examined prisoners.

It was often prison guards, many of whom knew less about medicine than a witchdoctor, who decided if prisoners were ill.

Even prisoners without medical training were pressed into service in poorly equipped sickbays. Many sick prisoners did not report sick for fear of being "treated" in the sickbay. Some prison doctors protested against the conditions. Others put up with them as best they could Others, like Achim Mechler, the former head of the Bonn prison hospital, quit. He is also a founder member of the institute.

Annemarie Wiegand used figures to show that prison conditions hav a negative psychological and physical effect on the inmates and that little effective action was taken when a prisoner fell ill.

In Berlin, 38 prisoners had been released on medical grounds between 1976 and 1980. During the same period, 17 died as a result of illness and 31 committed suicide.

In North Rhine-Westphalia, 269 prisoners were released for medical reasons and 167 died.

Dr Wiegand: "Many people who are obviously physically unfit to serve a sentence continue to be kept behind bars."

The trial lawyers at the meeting said the annual suicide rate in prisons (14 per 10,000 prisoners) was 4.5 times the national average.

This was unmatched in the Western world and compared with Britain's 5 per 10,000 and Japan's 3 per 10,000.

Only one German doctor attended the International Congress on Prison Medicine in Ottawa last October. He paid his own way.

And while Paris has long had a chair for prison medicine, no university in this country is even thinking of establishing one.

The lawyers at the meeting agreed that the penal act that stipulated that prisons must "ensure the physical and mental well-being of prisoners" has little bearing on the realities of day-to-day prison life."

Jürgen Wessalowski

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 23 November 1983)



Guess where this is!

No. This is not a queue in an East Bloc country. It is in Munich, in the Federal Republic. The ... unsold bread from other shops, and loaves with faults. The price, at a mark for a kilo com... usual prices of between DM1.60 and DM4.50 a kilo.

West Berlin battles to halt the rising tide of heroin deaths

The number of deaths from heroin in West Berlin is likely to reach a record 90 by the end of the year.

West Berlin has 8,000 heroin addicts. Seventy two had died by late November. This is far worse than any other city in Germany.

In the whole of the Federal Republic 185 people died from heroin in the first six months of the year.

The West Berlin administration runs six mobile teams to try and recognise young people who might be at risk. The aim of the teams is prevention.

The Berlin model has been in operation since 1978. Anti-drug police work with its international cooperation is boosted by counselling and information drives and therapeutic measures carried out not only in hospitals but also at home, particularly in housing communes.

DM3.8m has been earmarked for the mobile teams on top of the city's DM7.6 m budget for drug information and therapy.

Team workers believe many of today's addicts would not have become addicted if their psycho-social problems had been recognised in time.

Adelheid Krämer, an anti-drug worker with many years experience: "What matters is to create conditions that will prevent drug abuse in the first place.

"We have a two-pronged strategy: we want to work with endangered young visitors to youth recreation centres ... want to provide still better ... ourstuff."

In the past five years, the ... teams have been on 19 missions ... Berlin boroughs, each lasting ... three months and three years.

One example is a project where ... music workshop was organised ... months of preparatory work. The ... shop met on two weekends in the ...

Two professional rock bands ... night Sensation" and the "... ker Band," devoted themselves ... secondary school students' ... beginners' bands from all parts ... Berlin.

The drug problem was discussed ... between sessions with drums, ... tar and singing.

The 35 junior musicians and ... dience aged between 14 and ... shown the film "The Best ... Clear Head," which triggered ... discussion.

It is through this type of ... reational work that Günther O... the Steglitz borough mobile ... his colleagues are trying to get ... the youngsters and stop them ... ting.

The team also organises slide ... and films, one of them entitled ... Drug Trip."

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 21 November ...)

THE THIRD REICH

Jewish sanctuary on board Oskar Schindler's Ark

...e sight, Thomas Keneally writes in ...e crucial scene of his novel about ...erman industrialist in wartime ...d, was one that Oskar Schindler ...e woman he was out riding with at ...alled to grasp.

...e elegantly dressed industrialist ...is belle were out riding in a park ...e southern outskirts of Krakau. It ...high summer and they headed for a ...k.

...ere they stopped for a rest and ...ked down into the ghetto, which was ...an anthill in turmoil.

...owly they began to realise what was ...g on. Long queues of women and ...dren were being escorted along the ...d. An SS man accompanied a three-...r-old girl whose red clothes stood out ...ontrast to the rest.

...ard on their heels men and dogs ...k the houses by storm, smashing ...s open and upending furniture and ...ases into the street.

...woman who had been shot fell out ...window. An SS man put his jack-...on the neck of a young man on the ...d and shot him in the head.

...e little girl saw it all happening be-... the SS corporal had a chance to ...e her round the next corner.

...ocked and horrified, Oskar Schind-...alised he had to do something. This ...the final solution of the Jew-...uestion.

...e German squads were under or-...s and they were heedless of eye-wit-...s because they knew there weren't ...to be any survivlors.

...i, then is the crucial scene in Ke-...y's *Schindler's Ark*. An Australian ..., he describes how a German in-...alist rescued 1,300 Jews from cer-...death without coming to harm.

...s an unusual tale about an extraor-...y man. Schindler is not the stuff of ...heroes are normally made, and he ...t see himself as a hero.

...e motives were initially selfish, and ...later did he feel outraged in his ...of humanity.

...he shamelessness of men born of ...en who had to write letters home" ...hat made him shudder at the sight ...e SS at work.

...eally's book is based on years of ...rch and information provided by ...ndler Jews who survived.

...hen it won last year's Booker Prize ...ritain there were petty arguments ...whether it was more a documentary ...pilation than a novel.

...in fact combines the advantages of ... fiction and non-fiction: absolute ...racy and the art of great narrator ...ble of making the indescribable and ...mprehensible describable and com-...ensible.

...skar Schindler was a Sudeten Ger-... who in 1939 moved to Poland in ...ake of the Wehrmacht and set up ...namelware factory in Krakau.

...was a production facility that was ...ared to be of importance for the war ...t and business flourished beyond ...wildest dreams.

...next to no time he was a multimil-...aire. He enjoyed life in occupied ...nd to the full. He was a man about ..., well-dressed, had an eye for the ...sex and was a jovial drinking com-...on of the local Nazi officials.

...n occupied territories the Nazi officials led the corrupt lives of satraps while ordering Poles to be hanged for trying to smuggle a side of ham.

Schindler had as little use for secondary virtues as he had for political convictions. He committed adultery and neglected his wife and viewed his father with inexorable hatred.

As a German spy he supplied information for the build-up toward the invasion of Poland. He later wore a gold swastika in the lapel of his tailor-made suits.

Human kindness, compassion, humour and humanity were not what led him to save the lives of thousands of Jews who later praised him for these qualities.

Schindler's very immorality and character shortcomings were what enabled him to crack a system that defied morality of any kind.

He was engaged in a game with the devil and he won because he knew the rules. Concentration camp commanders felt he was one of their own.

They grinned knowingly and excused him his sensitivity in sending round his works fire brigade to douse down the freight waggons boiling in the sun.

They knew it would only be a matter of days before the jews in the waggons ended up in the gas chamber at Auschwitz.

What they didn't know was how magnanimous Schindler was and how he steadfastly defied the arithmetic of mass murder to ensure the survival of at least a handful of Jews in half-way tolerable conditions.

His friendliness and decency toward his Jewish forced labourers was doubtless initially limited to the outlook of a capitalist entrepreneur who looked after the people who earned him his money.



Oskar Schindler ... played the SS at their own game. (Photo: dpa)

Herr Direktor, as he was called, strictly abhorred the unproductive waste of know-how and skilled labour.

He only embarked on a course of resistance when the ill-treatment of Jews in the ghetto assumed the proportion of planned extermination, making logic out of madness.

From then on, Schindler used his money to prise Jews from the claws of the machinery of death.

He handed out enormous bribes, risked cold-blooded bluffs and engaged in daring intrigues to establish in the middle of very hell a refuge the survivors described as heaven.

His factory was nominally a work camp attached to Plaszów concentration camp, but it was he who made the rules, not the SS.

He risked life and limb, being arrested three times by the Gestapo. But on each occasion his excellent connections and the reputation he enjoyed at the Reich Armaments Ministry tipped the scale in favour of his release.

He even brought off a "miracle" that many surviving Schindler Jews felt proved he had mystical qualities.

As special SS squads scoured Poland to kill the last Jews before the Red Army marched in, Schindler moved his factory and staff to Moravia unscathed and quietly awaited the end of the war in Czechoslovakia.

For the women the journey seemed first as though it was destined to end in Auschwitz, "where the moral universe had not so much collapsed as been transformed into its opposite, like a black hole under pressure from all the evil in the world."

If *Schindler's Ark* were just a novel it would be too incredible to withstand criticism. The man, his motives and his activities break the bounds of literary imagination.

Keneally has merely done a rewrite of reality, retrieving it from the anonymous distance of the documentary. He extracts Schindler from the legends about him, making him even worthy of admiration.

It is an extremely exciting book, frequently upsetting and dreadful, yet at times heartening, a light in the darkness of an era so chilling that merely to think about it is enough to make one abandon hope and courage.

The most moving scene in the book was for me when Schindler's Jews present him with a ring as a token of gratitude.

The gold came from a bridge one prisoner extracted from another's teeth, grimly joking that had it not been for Schindler it would have been melted down in a concentration camp.

A verse from the Talmud was engraved in the ring. "He who saves but a single life," it said, "saves the whole world."

Hendrik Bebber

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 3 December 1983)

Award recalls the courage of a German

Michael Jovy, a German diplomat, has had a tree planted in his honour at Yad Vashem, the memorial to millions of Jewish dead, in Jerusalem.

He was also awarded a medal and presented with a diploma in Rome, where he works at the German embassy. Dr Jovy has been German ambassador in a number of countries.

"We are gathered here to voice our esteem, our administration and our gratirude to a courageous German," the Israeli ambassador said at the ceremony.

Dr Jovy, 63, is the son of Michael Jovy, the Roman Catholic lord mayor of Cologne who died in 1931. As a teenager he helped persecuted Jews in Cologne and Bonn.

"I imagine I am the only German ambassador who has ever been in prison," he said. That was from 1939 to shortly before the end of the war.

He was a leader of an illegal youth group in Bonn (where the family moved after his father died) that had conferred with a group of German Jewish emigrés in France in August 1938.

They decided to set up an illegal resistance organisation, to launch groups in the Reichsarbeitsdienst and the Wehrmacht and to found an aid association for persecuted Jews.

Detailed reports on the Reichskristallnacht in 1938, when the synagogues and Jewish shops and homes were sacked, were compiled and sent to clandestine addresses in Paris.

Clothes, food and cash were collected for friends in France. As late as summer 1939 groups were formed at the Reichsarbeitsdienst camp on the Westwall.

In December 1939 he and other members were arrested. In September 1941, after nearly two years' solitary internment, they were sentenced to long years in prison.

At Siegburg jail Jovy kept up his clandestine activity, making contact with a resistance group in Cologne. He was eventually seconded to a punishment squad on the Westwall.

He was recognised by Americans as a political prisoner at the war's end, thanks to the testimony of Jewish officers of German extraction, and returned to Cologne.

To save only a single human being is to save the whole world, the medal he was presented with in Rome proclaims.

In the peace and quiet of the Israeli embassy in Rome the Nazi era was brought back to life by the ambassador's words. He said it was an honour and a special privilege to hand over the award as a token of his country's gratitude.

Dr Jovy's activities only came to light a couple of years ago, when an Israeli journalist came across details. Until then few people knew that other young Germans than the Scholl group had tried to organise resistance to Hitler, it was said in Rome.



Michael Jovy ... help for persecuted Jews. (Photo: Bundesbildstelle)

Dr Jovy would prefer his own work to be played dowm and more attention to be given to the activities of his group as a whole as an inspiration to young Germans today.

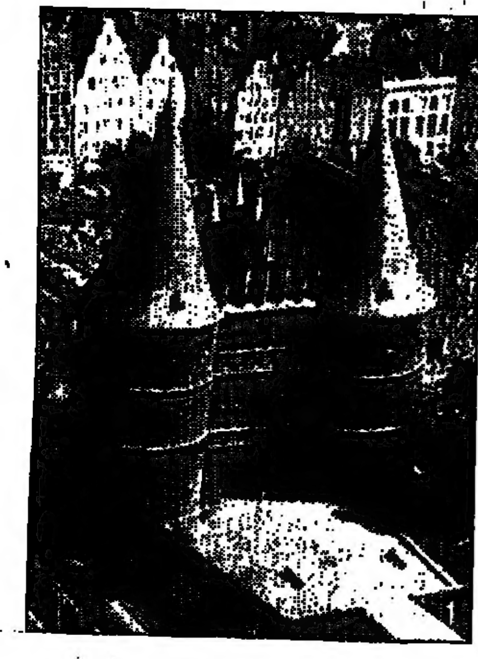
"My friends and I were pupils at the Beethoven *Gymnasium* in Bonn," he says. "I fail to understand why to this day there is not even a plaque to recall courageous former pupils such as Helmut Giessen who gave their lives in resisting the Nazis."

(Der Tagesspiegel, 30 November 1983)

Routes to tour in Germany

The German Holiday Route – from the Alps to the Baltic



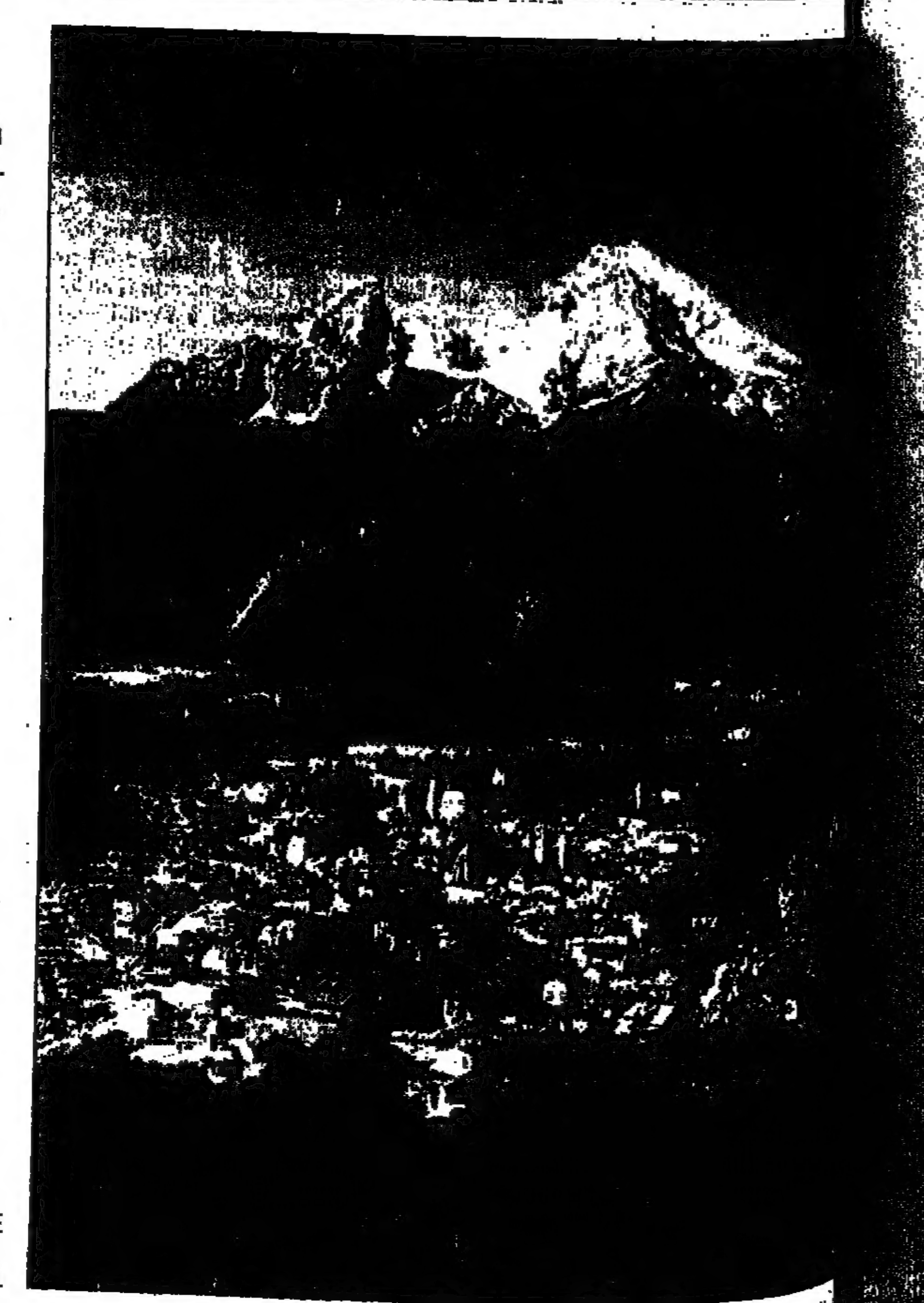


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Start in the south with Berchtesgaden and its bob run. Maybe you have already heard tell of Landshut, a mediaeval Bavarian town with the world's largest brick-and-mortar tower. Or of Erbach in the Odenwald, with its castle and the Ivory Museum. Or of Alsfeld with its half-timbered houses, the Harz mountain towns or the 1,000-year-old-Hanseatic port of Lübeck.

Visit Germany and let the Holiday Route be your guide – from the Alps to the Baltic.



1 Lübeck
2 Melsungen
3 Schwäbisch Hall
4 Berchtesgaden

